



Now operating under National Co-operatives Act 2014 as a non-trading, small co-operative:

Energy Innovation Co-operative Ltd.

Directors' Report Nov 2014:

To the Members,

Your Directors submit their report, together with the audited financial statements of the Co-operative, for the financial year ended 30 June 2014

The Directors of the Co-operative in office at any time during or since the end of the financial year 13-14 and up to the date of this report (AGM 15th Nov 2014) are:

- Susan Davies- Chair (founding Director 2009-retiring as Chair, continuing as Director Nov 2014)
- Maddy Harford- Deputy Chair (appointed 2012- continuing as elected Director 2013 and beyond)
- Rob Gray- Secretary (appointed 2010-continuing as elected Director)
- Bruce Hydon- Treasurer (founding Director 2009-continuing)
- Gil Freeman- founding Director 2009-continuing
- Dave Sutton -founding Director 2009-continuing
- Brad Kijlstra-Shone - appointed Sept 2012- retiring Nov 2014
- Peter Wonfor -appointed Sept 2014- continuing

Brad's resignation, due to new work responsibilities, was accepted late in October 2014. The members of the board would like to register our appreciation for the significant time, expertise, experience and wisdom he contributed as a Director.

The Energy Innovation Co-operative's change of registration from a trading to a non-trading Co-operative as agreed at the Nov 2013 AGM, was completed during 2014.

The principal activities of the Co-op as listed in the revised constitution are:

1. To inform members plus the broader community about renewable energy systems and the emerging renewable energy market
2. To facilitate the establishment of renewable energy systems
3. To support community and business action towards a carbon- neutral future.

In line with these formal "principal activities", the 2013- 2016 strategic plan as developed by the Board in 2013-14 listed 3 main objectives for the Co-op.

1. Facilitate the uptake of renewable energy:

- a. The Co-op has continued, albeit at a much lower level of activity, to maintain links with several



“preferred” **local solar PV installers**, who have a track record of satisfactory dealings with the public. We **provide supplier contact details** to members of the public making enquiries, and answer queries about energy efficiency and other related issues.

- b. The **Co-op activity day in March 2014** viewed and listened to information on a working vertical access wind-turbine .Over 30 people attended.
- c. Three members of the Board attended the **Congress for Community Energy in Canberra in June 2014**. The board has since worked on developing a financial model which could make a community energy project in South Gippsland/ Bass Coast viable, has spoken at a community gathering in Inverloch and a Bass Coast Council briefing, with one to South Gippsland Council coming. Further discussions within the community are continuing.
- d. The Co-op September newsletter focussed on **Community Energy issues** and has been widely disseminated across the community.
(It remains available for download on the website: www.eico-op.com.au)

2. **Strengthen the Co-op’s capacity to influence environmental sustainability in south and west Gippsland communities:**

- a. **The move to becoming a non-trading Co-operative** was undertaken to better fit with the requirements of Coalition government funding programs. It is hoped that given the recent passage of Federal legislation and the election in Victoria, some new program funding may again become available.
- b. We continued work on **improving the accuracy and useability of our shareholder/ member database**, with the recent mail-out to 312 shareholders resulting in only 7 unreachable “return to senders”.

3. **Act as a conduit for information about reducing carbon emissions:**

- a. **The Co-op continues to participate in local events** such as the South Gippsland Sustainability Festival April 2014 and to address many community group events and gatherings (on request).
- b. **The Co-op has been building further links** with Bass Coast Council, South Gippsland Council/ Prom Country tourism, Mirboo North energy hub, participating in several joint projects around encouraging energy efficiency in small business and households.
- c. The Co-op now **passes on relevant information** including newsletters via the website, a Co-op Facebook page, Twitter and Sustainability Gippsland website. Please note, more than one mail-out per annum is not affordable, so we normally rely on members and others accessing emails and/ or social media.

Significant Changes:

(Significant changes in the nature of those primary activities or the Co-operative’s state of affairs during the year)

- a. The constitutional/ registration change from a trading to a non-trading Co-operative, makes our not-for-profit status more explicit. The focus of ‘primary activities’ of the Co-operative did not significantly change.



- b. With restricted availability of funds, and lack of availability of grant funding, activity levels are reduced, but are continuing.

Current staff include a very part-time (contracted) book-keeper Michelle Ten ace, and even less frequently part-time (contracted) Admin support, Deb Lopez-Freeman. Both continue to be funded from Co-op business activities and membership subscriptions. The remaining effort is voluntary.

Review and result for the year:

The Co-operative has made a loss of \$8,079 for this financial year (compared to 2012-13 profit of \$4,334.55). This has been covered by reserves. The limited income has been from members – new members plus renewals, plus payments for services provided for participating in funded projects.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year:

Some matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which may significantly affect the operations of the Co-operative, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Co-operative in the subsequent financial year:

Proposals to develop Community Energy projects would be a major step for the Co-operative and require very significant effort to develop the model, to encourage community participation in the suggestion of potentially viable sites and to consider investment, and to engage the assistance and participation of local government. This will not happen without significant involvement from our members and others, and will require investment of time, funds and expertise. Legal advice will be needed, and is being sought.

Future Developments and Results:

The likely developments in the operations of the Co-operative in future financial years and the expected results of these developments are:

One objective of the Community Energy proposals being developed will be to identify and establish some form of income stream for the Co-operative to facilitate a continuation of education, information dissemination and other efforts.

Environmental Regulation:

The operations of the Co-operative are not currently subject to environmental regulation.

Share options:

Each paid up member of the Co-operative has one voting share.

Directors and executives benefits and contracts:

During or since the end of the previous financial year, Directors of the Co-operative have not received any benefits or contracts.



Indemnification and insurance of officers/auditor:

Insurance premiums have been paid for Director's liability insurance and public liability insurance during or since the end of the financial year.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Directors

Signed at Korumburra on the 15 Nov 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Davies". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and the last name "Davies" clearly legible.

Chair/ Director : **Susan Margaret Davies**

Treasurer/Director: **Bruce Thomas Hydon**